

December 14, 2018

The Honorable Ajit Pai, Chairman  
The Honorable Michael O’Rielly, Commissioner  
The Honorable Brendan Carr, Commissioner  
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner

Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
455 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Southwest  
Washington, DC, 20544

Dear Chairman Pai,

I write to support the Comments of Catamount Access Television and the Cable Act Preservation Alliance (CAPA), to disapprove of the proposals and tentative conclusions set forth in the FCC’s September 25 Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making in *Implementation of Section 621(a)(1) of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 as Amended by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992*, MB Docket 05-311.

I live in Shaftsbury, a town served by Catamount Access Television (CAT TV). CAT TV broadcasts coverage of important local government proceedings, local events, educational activities, and locally generated content that is uniquely relevant and valuable to members of the local community. All these activities serve to promote a thriving local democratic process, which in turn contributes to the proud tradition of democracy in the United States.

A platform for ordinary citizens to broadcast their own message is essential to democracy. Reliable funding of community television makes this possible. Thus for decades, community television has played a proud and important role in sustaining democracy in the United States.

The intent of the PEG provisions of the 1984 Cable Act was to enhance local voices, serve local community needs and interests, and strengthen our local democracy. By defining “franchise fee” in an overly broad fashion to include “in-kind” support, the FCC’s proposals will shift the fair balance between cable franchising authorities and cable operators, and force communities to choose between franchise fees and PEG channels. This was never the intent of the Act.

I appreciate your consideration and hope you will protect PEG Access in our community and others, by choosing not to adopt many of the proposals in the Further Notice.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Schoerke  
Shaftsbury, Vermont